



# UNLIVEABLE BERLIN

---

MSD DESIGN STUDIO, 2019

## UNLIVEABLE BERLIN

Unliveable Berlin is a University of Melbourne design studio, organised and run by Michael Roper (Director, Architecture Architecture). Running in second semester of 2019, this studio will take a group of masters students from architecture, landscape and urban design to the ANCB Metropolitan Laboratory in Berlin where they will explore and develop ideas for experimental housing projects.

### STUDIO THEME: VISIBLE HISTORIES

Berlin has undergone several phases of trauma and transformation. Growing out of two world wars, living through three decades of east-west division followed by re-unification, rebuilding and more recent bankruptcy, Berlin is riddled with the scars of its history. Politically shaped by socialism and capitalism; physically, by the destruction of war and urban regrowth; culturally, by division and unity; this is a city still coming to terms with its physical and cultural territories.

### STUDIO THEME: A VISION FOR HOUSING

The second half of the 20th century saw two moments of significant experimentation in Berlin's housing program, the 1957 Hansaviertel projects, and the 1987 IBA projects. In both instances, prominent international and German architects attempted to address the political, social and economic concerns of the day. In more recent years, Berlin has become a heartland of Germany's Baugruppen projects, a model for housing that empowers ordinary citizens to design and finance their own communities.

### STUDIO THEME: DESIGNING FOR INCLUSION

With its chequered history of cultural exclusion and ideological seclusion, as well as an impressive record of refugee accommodation, Berlin presents a unique case study in the urban consequences of social disunity and cohesion. In this context we ask, how does a city express its hostilities and how, as architects, can we foster cities of inclusion?

### STUDIO OUTCOMES: GLOBAL THINKERS

Stripped of well-worn reference points, the travelling studio encourages students to see with fresh eyes. They come to sense a city's unconscious – its undercurrents – developing instincts for the manifold cultural forces that drive a place. Through the travelling studio, we aim to foster broad, global-thinking problem solvers, versed in the physical mechanisms (infrastructural, geographical) and cultural forces (political and social) that underpin urban life.

## STUDIO STRUCTURE

In the first half of semester, in Melbourne and Berlin, student will develop strong conceptual foundations, exploring precedent co-housing projects, housing policy and approaches to housing design.

In the second half of semester, students will rigorously develop their conceptual findings into a complete design solution. Each week, students will be guided through the development of their project, progressively focussing on massing, planning, sections, renders, layouts, and verbal presentation.

Each week, studio time will be spent presenting design proposals, hearing from guest speakers and exploring themes for the following week's assignment. Students are expected to play an active role in class discussions and project critiques.

### CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are required to participate in the critique and development of their classmates' projects. Students are to keep an A6 notebook for recording questions, ideas and constructive critique in response to every student's weekly presentation. At the end of each student's presentation, the class will be called upon to lead discussion. The A6 book should also be used to record weekly feedback received from the tutors and fellow students.

### DATES

University of Melbourne  
29th July – 15th August  
Intensive research & design esquisses

ANCB, Berlin  
19th – 30th August  
Intensive exploration & design

University of Melbourne  
12th September >  
Complete design project.  
Reduced contact hours.

### ANCB: A METROPOLITAN LABORATORY

ANCB is the headquarters for an extensive international network of institutions and universities, supporting research and knowledge transfer in an environment where architects, planners, economists, philosophers, scientists, artists, engineers and ecologists come together to tackle the issues facing globalised urban environments. At ANCB, students will engage with a range of academics, researchers and specialists relevant to the themes of the studio.

---

# STUDIO OUTLINE

## TUTOR

The subject will be organized in a single studio group for the entire semester, tutored by Michael Roper and supported by a series of invited studio collaborators. Please note that both your tutor and the invited studio collaborators for this subject are practitioners who will only be available to you during contact hours.

## ASSESSMENT

The following is a breakdown of the approximate weighting of each task. It's important to note that to pass the semester, students must also achieve a pass for the Final Project:

Esquisse Exercises (weeks 1-4)	30%
Berlin Mid-Semester (weeks 5-6)	20%
Final Project Presentation	40%
Final Exhibition & Folio	10%

- Student submissions will be assessed according to the following criteria:
- demonstrates an iterative architectural design process
- rigorously explores original design ideas
- demonstrates a clear understanding of building materials and technologies
- clearly and skilfully communicates design proposal using chosen medium
- creative and inventive interpretation of design tasks

A structured moderation process involving both tutors and external guests will take place after the final studio assessments to ensure parity of marking. All work will be assessed unless you are specifically instructed otherwise. Any work submitted late for assessment will be recorded as late and will lose marks at a rate of 5% per hour. Any work more than 12 hours late will be failed.

## A3 PROJECT FILE

Students are required to pursue a disciplined process of design which involves careful analysis of options and opportunities. It is a requirement of the subject that students retain, date and archive any notes, sketches, diagrams, drawings, models, writings, photos etc. in an A3 Project File for review at the end of semester. Incremental development of design ideas must be clearly demonstrated through the project file.

## ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend all sessions. Any student unable to attend a session should send an e-mail in advance to the tutor. Students failing to achieve attendance requirements will be ineligible for assessment in this subject. Please ensure that you arrive on time to all sessions, otherwise you will be marked absent.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Grounds for special consideration have been set-out by the university. In general, Special Consideration is available when your work has been substantially hampered by illness or other causes. Except in unusual circumstances, acute problems – that is, problems involving no more than 3 consecutive days, or a total of 5 days, within the teaching period of a semester – are not considered sufficient grounds for Special Consideration. Computer failure will not be considered a valid reason for the late submission of assignments, and extensions will not be granted as a result of computer failure. All Special Consideration applications must be lodged within the time limits. For more information, go to: <https://sis.unimelb.edu.au/functions/special-consid/info/SubmissionGuidelines.html>.

## COSTS

Students will be expected to cover the costs of their flights, accommodation and living expenses as well as any additional activities undertaken in Berlin. Students may wish to apply for Global Mobility Fund sponsorship.

## MANAGING ELECTIVES

Students will need to speak with their elective coordinators to ensure that they are able to be away from Melbourne for the dates listed above.

## HOW TO APPLY

To register your interest, email Michael Roper at [mr@archarch.com.au](mailto:mr@archarch.com.au).

---

# STUDIO OUTLINE



DESIGN



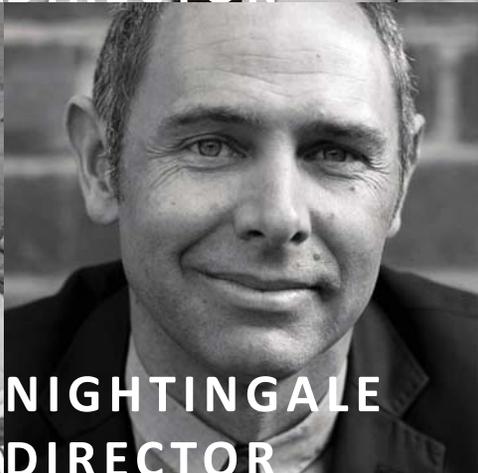
ANCB BERLIN  
DIRECTOR



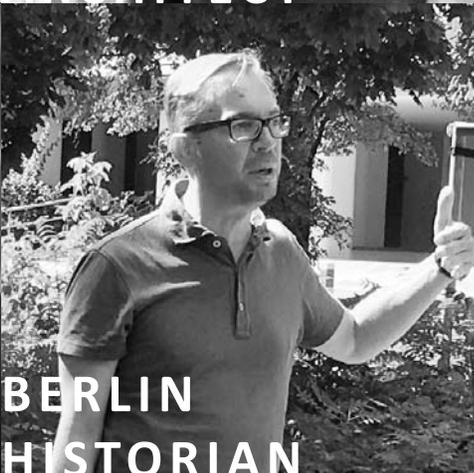
BAUGRUPPEN  
ARCHITECT



BERLIN  
ACTIVIST



NIGHTINGALE  
DIRECTOR



BERLIN  
HISTORIAN



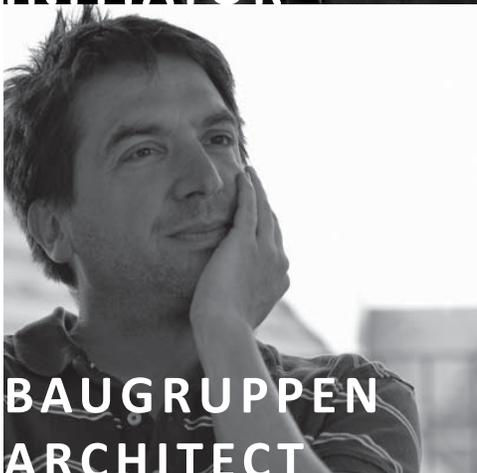
CO-HOUSING  
INITIATOR



HOUSING  
POLICY



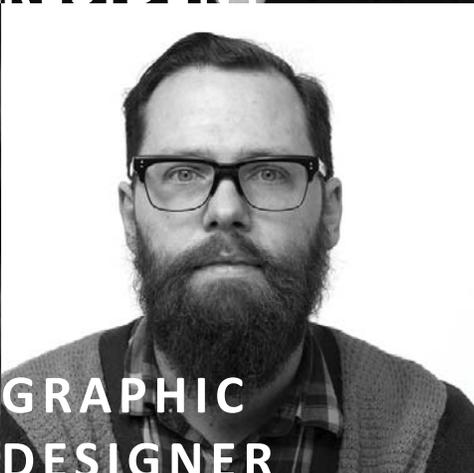
CO-HOUSING  
RESIDENT



BAUGRUPPEN  
ARCHITECT



HOUSING  
AFFORDABILITY



GRAPHIC  
DESIGNER

---

# STUDIO COLLABORATORS

Students are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with Berlin's history and cultural context as well as some of the broader themes and concerns of the studio. As the first four weeks will involve intensive design and research investigations, students will benefit from having familiarised themselves with some of the following material. Students may wish to strategically divide and delegate this material so as to cover as much territory as possible.

## READINGS

- Spaces of Uncertainty (Miessen)
- Stasiland (Funder)
- Self-Made City (Ring)
- Living Complex, From Zombie City to the New Communal (Maak)
- A Practical Guide to Squatting (Henning)
- Das Hansaviertel (Schulz & Schulz)
- Floor Plan Manual Housing (Birkhauser)
- Furniture, Structure, Infrastructure (Bertram)
- Housing+ (Wietzorrek)
- Interbau Berlin 1957 (catalog)
- Life Between Buildings (Gehl)
- Opportunistic Urbanism (Ramirez-Lovering)
- Threshold Spaces (Boettger)
- Crossbenching Toward Participation as Critical Spatial Practice (Miessen)
- Building the City Together (Raumlabor)

## ONLINE

- Reinventing Density (Moore)
- Learning from Berlin (Fergus & Sundermann)
- The Phenomenon of Building Group in Berlin (Chan)

## FILMS

- Central Airport THF (Ainouz)
- Wings of Desire (Wenders)
- Berlin, Symphony of a Great City (Ruttman)
- Germany, Year Zero (Rossellini)
- Berlin, Alexanderplatz – epilogue (Fassbinder)
- Prinzessinnenbad (Bettina Blümner)
- Achterbahn (Dörfler)
- Goodbye Lenin (Becker)
- Sonnenallee (Haußmann)
- Downfall (Hirschbiegel)
- Run Lola Run (Tykwer)
- Germany, Year 90 Nine Zero (Godard)
- Christiana F. (Uli Edel)
- B-Movie (Maeck, Hoppe, Lange)

## KEY HISTORICAL PERIODS OF BERLIN

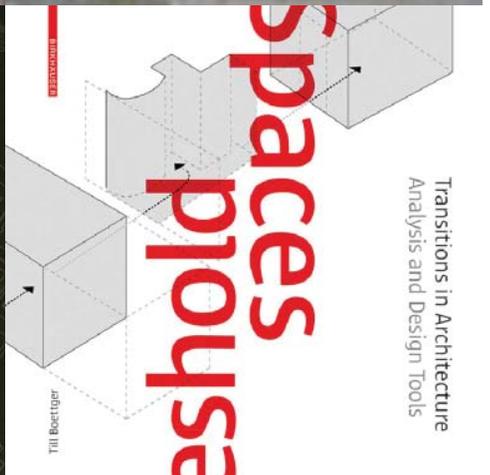
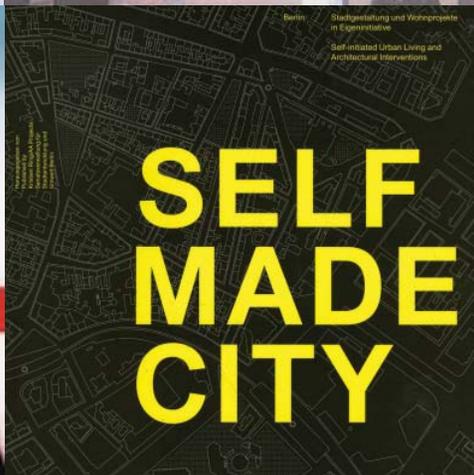
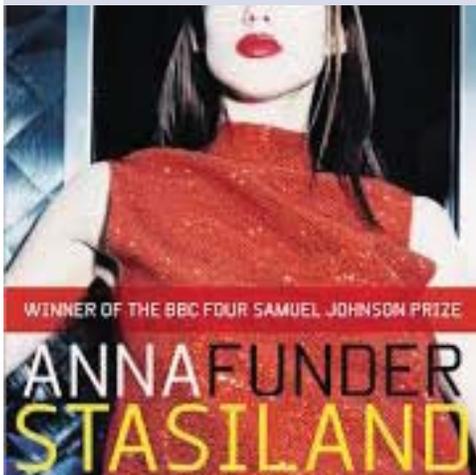
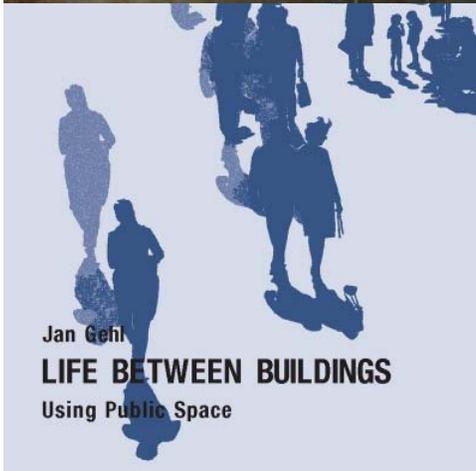
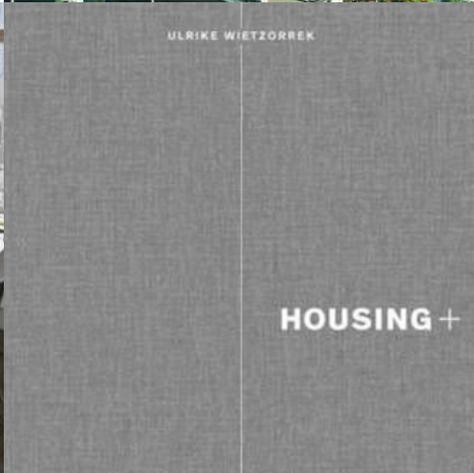
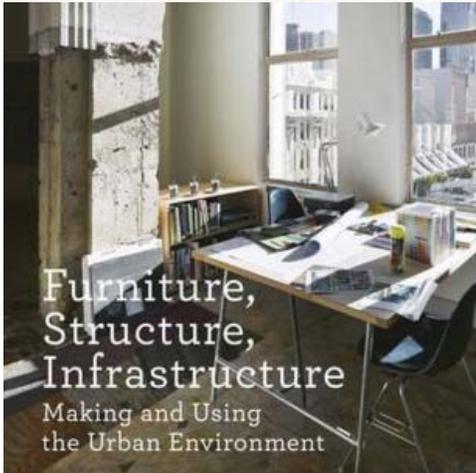
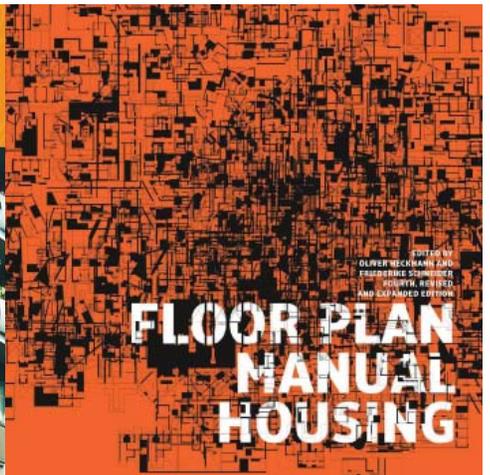
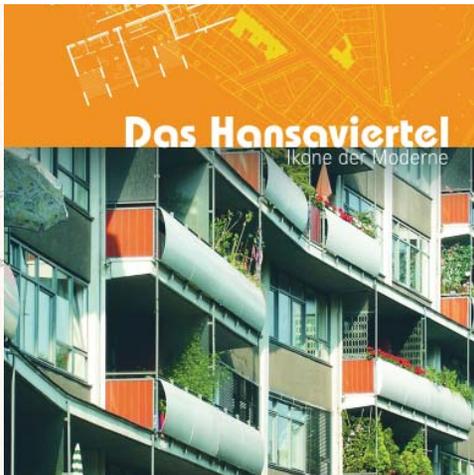
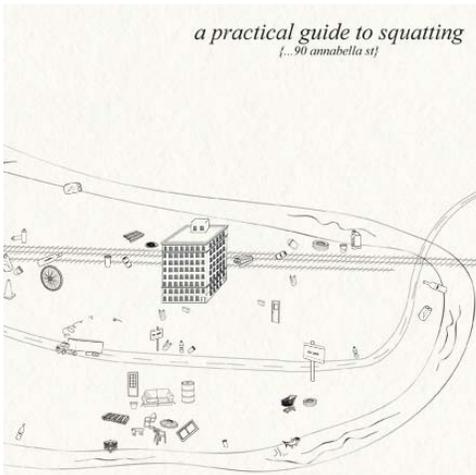
- Imperial Berlin (1871-1918)
- Weimar Republic (1919-1933)
- Third Reich (1933-1945)
- Cold War (1945-1989)
- Post Reunification (1989-present)

## SITES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

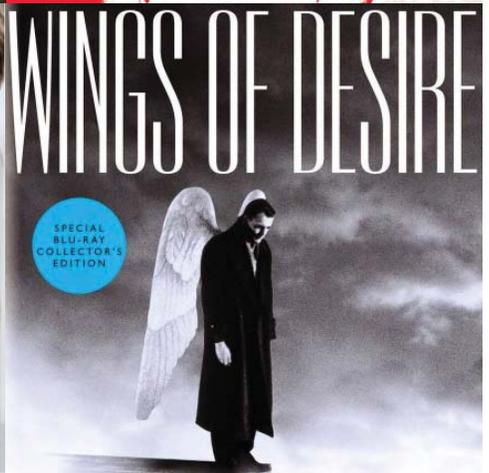
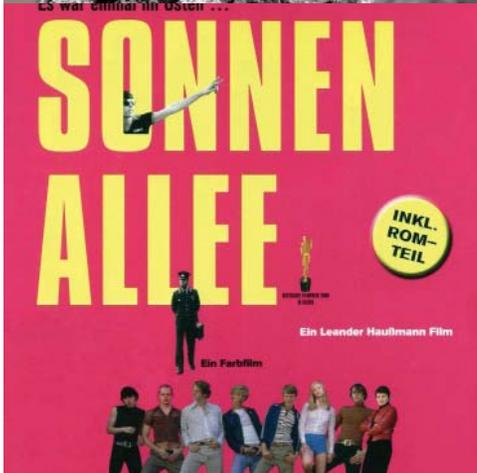
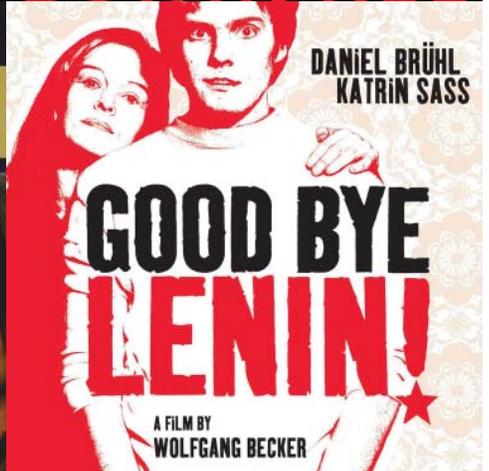
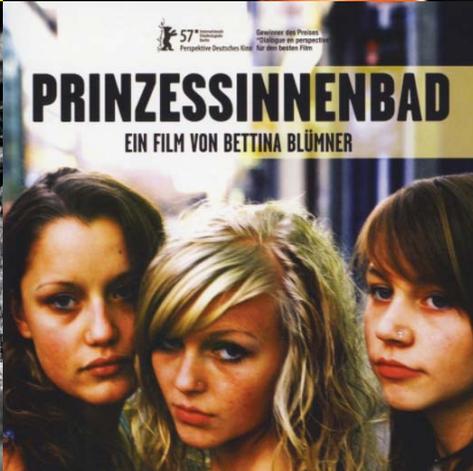
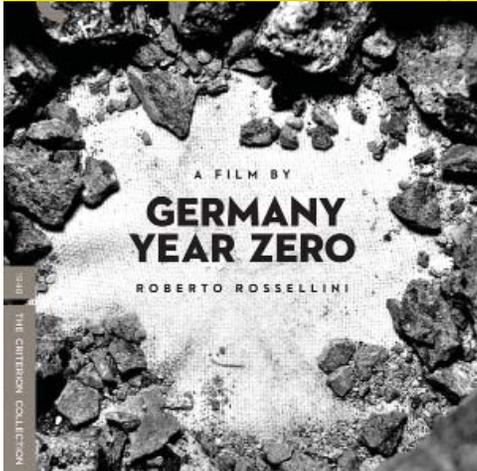
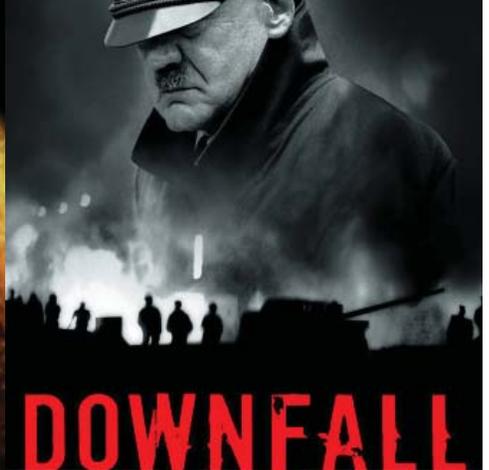
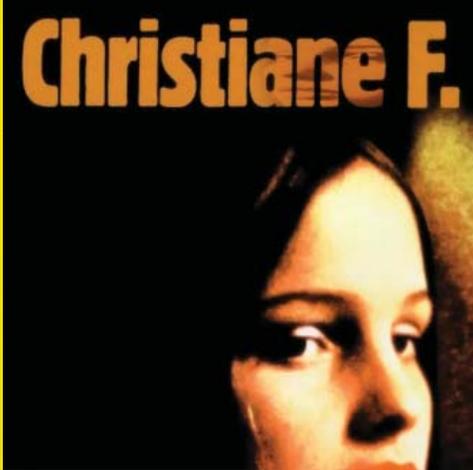
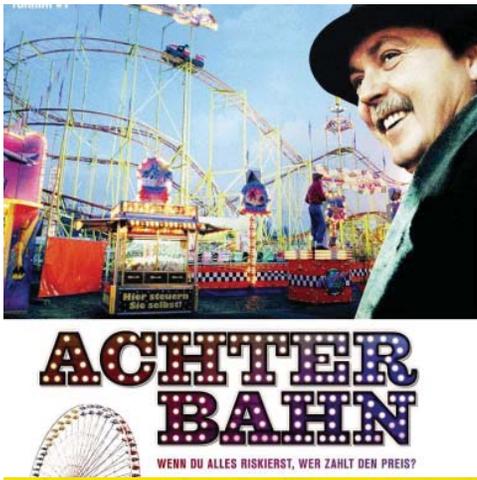
- Tempelhof
- Potsdamer Platz
- Tacheles
- Teufelsberg
- Jewish Memorial
- Goerlitzer Park
- Palast de Republic
- Alexanderplatz
- The Great Hall
- Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
- East-side Gallery
- Mauerpark
- Volksbuehne
- Hackescher Hofer

---

# REFERENCES



# REFERENCE TEXTS



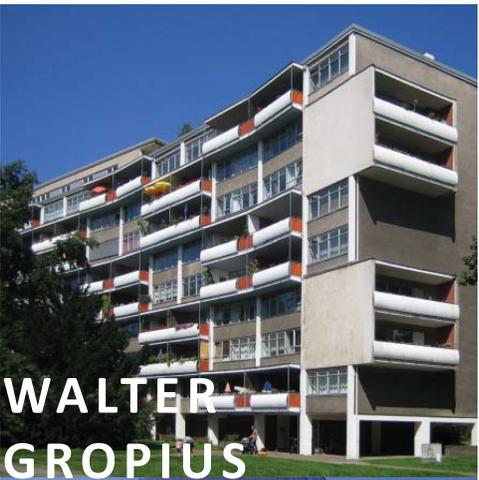
REFERENCE FILMS



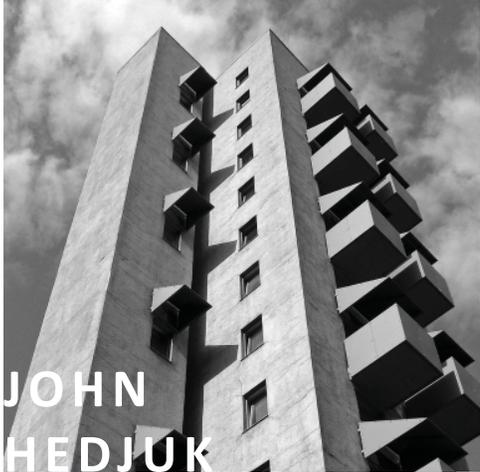
ALVAR  
AALTO



OSCAR  
NEIMEYER



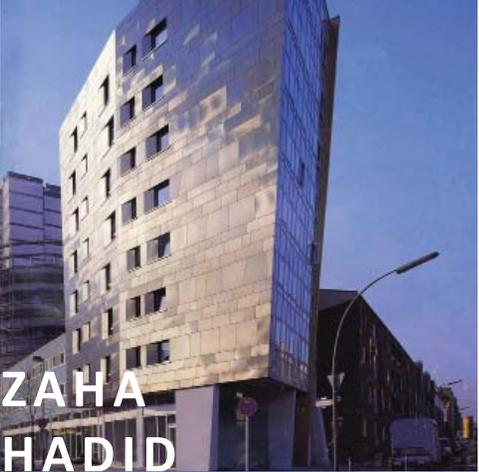
WALTER  
GROPIUS



JOHN  
HEDJUK



ALVARO  
SIZA



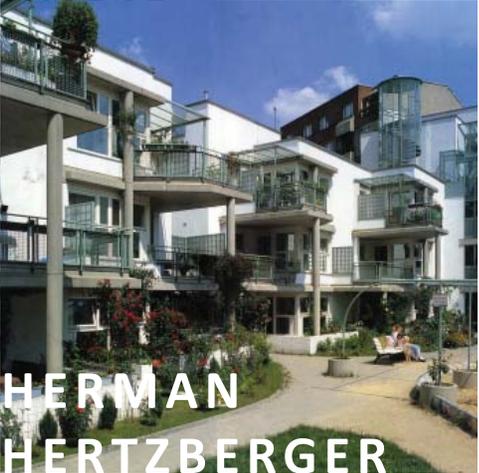
ZAHA  
HADID



KADEN  
KLINGBEIL



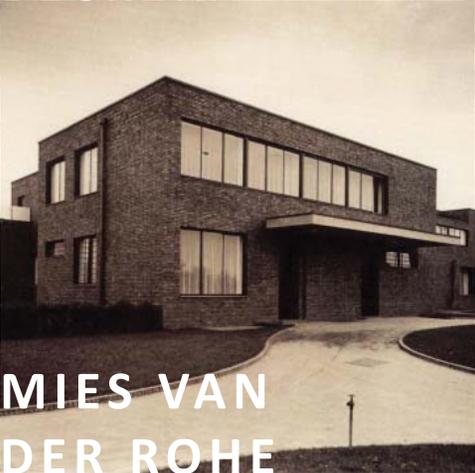
HEIDE & VON  
BECKERATH



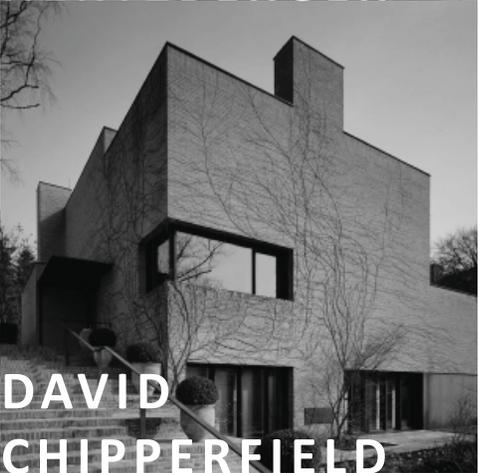
HERMAN  
HERTZBERGER



LE  
CORBUSIER



MIES VAN  
DER ROHE



DAVID  
CHIPPERFIELD

---

# BERLIN: HOUSING PROJECTS